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K S PUTTASWAMY
8 FEB 1926 - 28 OCT 2024

JUSTICE PUTTASWAMY PASSES AWAY AT 98

The former Karnataka High Court judge was the lead petitioner who moved the Supreme Court in 2012 challenging the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar scheme. Based on his plea, a nine-judge bench of the SC declared the right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution, in August 2017 | P11

WAR AGAINST TERROR

Infantry combat vehicles take position during a search operation following a terrorist attack on an army convoy, at Akhnoor sector in Jammu on Monday | PTI | P12

Census likely in early 2025

Speculation on Lok Sabha seat delimitation; Key NDA ally TDP demands policy revamp

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

STRONG indications from the Centre on Monday suggested that the much-delayed decadal Census exercise would begin in early 2025, potentially followed by the controversial delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. Since Census is a humongous exercise, it will take over a year for it to be wrapped up and the report cannot be published before 2026.

The year 2026 is significant because Article 82 of the Constitution says, "Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first Census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust."

Speaking to this newspaper, former chief statistician Pronab Sen said the delimitation process can be carried out after completing the Census operations in 2026 if the government so desires. "We are at the end of 2024. If the process of Census starts today, the earliest you will be able to finish the exercise is by March-April 2026. It takes a year and a half just for preparation. The first step is house listing and it will take 7-8 months. Then the process of preparing for the Census begins. The Constitution says that the delimitation should be based on the first Census on or after 2026," he said.

ARTICLE
82
Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine:
Provided further that such readjustment shall take effect from such date as President may, by order, specify and until such readjustment takes effect, any election to the House may be held on the basis of the territorial constituencies existing before such readjustment;
Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust

(a) the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States as readjusted on the basis of the 1971 census; and (b) the division of each State into territorial constituencies as may be readjusted on the basis of the 2001 census, under this article

Delimitation runs the risk of upsetting states in the South.

Speaking to this paper, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), an NDA ally, sought reworking of the delimitation exercise. TDP MP and Parliamentary party leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu said, "The delimitation of Lok Sabha seats on the basis of population may lead to Andhra Pradesh losing out in representation as we successfully controlled population. The state shouldn't be punished for that. We want consultations with the government and various other stakeholders in reworking the policy."

As for the other demand on caste census, no decision has been taken on it yet. Year 2025 will represent the start of a new Census cycle — 2025-2035, 2035-2045. The exercise will begin with the updation of the National Register of Citizens.

AI growth disrupting jobs, warns report

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE growing deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in several sectors is casting a shadow over employment stability in India, the Union Finance Ministry said in its monthly economic review.

"Anecdotal reports of the deployment of Artificial Intelligence displacing workers are beginning to emerge. That needs watching," said the report for September.

The Economic Survey 2023-24, tabled in Parliament in July, had also flagged concerns of more and more companies turning to AI tools to replace human talent. "While AI has considerable potential for boosting productivity, it also has the potential to disrupt employment in certain sectors," the survey had said.

Analysing hiring trends, the Finance Ministry's report noted that there was a 7% decline in job opportunities in September 2024, compared to the same month, last year. It said the Naukri JobSpeak index witnessed an annual growth of 6% in September 2024, driven by a resurgent IT sector.

"Sectors such as FMCG and Oil & Gas also underwent significant growth and continued ascent in Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning roles. However, hiring trends were largely favourable for experience-holders, while professionals with 0-3 years of experience saw a 7% decline in job opportunities vis-a-vis September 2023," it said.

State Cabinet decides to implement SC sub-quota

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE state cabinet on Monday decided to implement internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), for which it is constituting a one-man commission headed by a retired judge to study and gather empirical data, based on which the government will take further steps.

The commission will be given three months to submit its report to the government. Till then, all recruitment processes will be put on hold, said Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs HK Patil after the cabinet meeting. But the government did not seem to have any clarity on how to implement the internal quota for SCs.

SCs have 17 per cent of the total reservation and there are 101 castes among SCs in the state. The allocation of quota was done based on the 2011 census, which revealed that the population of SCs in the state was 17.5 per cent in Karnataka, while that of Scheduled Tribes 6.95 per cent. Many sub-castes among SCs have been demanding internal reservation as they feel they have not got required representation as per their population. The Basavaraj Bommai government, just before the Assembly polls in 2023, had recommended 6% internal quota for SC (Left), 5.5% for SC (Right), 4.5 per cent for touchables that include Bhovi, Korcha, etc and 1 per cent for others. In August this year, the Supreme Court ruled that the state governments will now be constitutionally empowered to make sub-classification within SCs.

Patil told reporters that there was a demand and discussion on implementing internal reservation. "The cabinet gave the approval to constitute the commission headed by a retired high court judge. The commission will collect empirical data within three months. We will decide once we get the the report," he said. P6

Pvt unit for military plane takes wings

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Vadodara

AFTER an impressive roadshow in Gujarat's Vadodara, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez jointly inaugurated the Tata Advanced System Limited (TASL)-Airbus plant to manufacture C-295 military aircraft in the city.

It is the country's first assembly line where at least 18,000 components of the aircraft will be manufactured. "Till now we had the vision of Make in India, now proudly we extend it to Make in India, Make for the World," Modi said.

Commissioning the project shows India's work culture has changed for good, he said. The country cannot only commission projects on time but can manufacture and deliver goods on time. In October 2022, the foundation stone of the project was laid, and within two years, work on production of a C-295 has started, he said. Modi said another plant to manufacture Bombardier train coaches was commissioned in record time. Now, coaches manufactured there are exported, proving India means business, he said.

Sanchez called Tata Group a "giant among giants". "...This partnership between Airbus and Tata will contribute to the progress of Indian aerospace industry and will open new doors for the arrival of other European companies," he said.

EXPRESS INTAKE

Farmhouse horror: Miscreants target students in R'gara | P5

Dir Ranjith booked on charges of sexually assaulting man | P5

MUDA case: ED raids 8 locations in Bengaluru and Mysuru | P6

TG HC: No coercive action against KTR's bro-in-law | P7

Girl taking selfie falls into 15-ft gorge, rescued after 20 hrs | P7